



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

801-538-5340

801-359-3940 (Fax)

801-538-7223 (TDD)

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

July 3, 1998

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tom Munson, Reclamation Hydrologist *TM*

RE: Division Technical Staff Meeting Notes, Reilly Wendover, Bonneville Plant Mine, M/045/002, Tooele County, Utah

Date of Meeting at Division: January 15, 1998

Participants at Meeting: Wayne Hedberg, Tony Gallegos, Lynn Kunzler, and Tom Munson,  
DOGM

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss a recent permit amendment/revision plan

## MEETING NOTES

A meeting was held to discuss the permitting amendment and the overall reclamation plan for Reilly Wendover.

The issues discussed regarding the amendment vs revision were: would the review open up bonding questions regarding Reilly Wendover, based on the decommissioning of the existing impoundment? Reilly Wendover is currently bonded at \$49,100. Our current reclamation plan does not contemplate filling in ditches, canals, etc. and allows that to occur naturally. There is some concern whether this method of reclamation is an appropriate reclamation practice and whether we need to re-address this in our future updating of the bonding of Reilly Wendover. The BLM now has required several other operations, including Salada Minerals, to reclaim their ditches and canals. As a consequence, we need to review our past decision on not reclaiming the dikes, canals etc. in relation to the BLM decision.

We also discussed the environmental consideration of the overall hydrologic balance. Do the conveyance ditches need to be graded or should they be breached? What are the safety concerns of leaving those ditches in place? How will they keep people off the property in the future? Are the safety concerns a consideration or is this something our legal counsel should give us advice on? Is this something we should look at long term, or just during the actual operations at the site?

We also decided that we need to plan a site visit to better understand the functioning of the ditches, dikes and pumps and what we might expect if they were left unattended for a period of time. Also, as these ponds or impoundments fill in with salts, which render them unusable, what does that do in terms of the overall reclamation effect? We currently do not really know what physical

Page 2  
Tech Staff Meeting  
M/045/002  
July 3, 1998

structures will remain and how that's considered in the bond. Also, we have no cross sections of impoundments and what they would look like following reclamation. It was suggested by Wayne, that we look at the impacts to adjacent state and federal lands, even if the areas we are permitting are strictly private. The impoundments being decommissioned are located on BLM land, and we should make them aware of this.

We also discussed the salt study regarding the Bonneville Salt Flats in regards to the hydrologic balance. What impacts would leaving the ditches and canals have on that project or the impacts to the area north of I-80. It was suggested that we contact Phil Allard in Washington, who used to work for the BLM, or possibly Bill White, who is currently working on the project for the BLM.

The things to do include: (1) put together technical review documents; (2) ask them some questions as to how high the ditches and dikes will be - what physical structures will be left in place - what hydrologic or safety concerns there are; (3) set up a field visit; and (4) look at the existing plan and see what we have regarding reclamation and try to dovetail that in with our current considerations. Tom is to arrange the field visit.

jb  
M045002.mem